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25X1A

CONTENTS

1. IRAQ DELAYS DECISION ON SENDING TROOPS AND
SUPPLIES INTO JORDAN [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

2. IMMINENT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM
HUNGARY REPORTED [REDACTED]

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25X1A

25X1A

1. IRAQ DELAYS DECISION ON SENDING TROOPS AND
SUPPLIES INTO JORDAN

25X1A

No movement of Iraqi troops or supplies of any kind into Jordan will be undertaken at present, Iraqi prime minister Nuri Said told Ambassador Gallman on 17 Oc-

tober. As a result of the talks between an Iraqi mission to Amman and the Jordanian government which ended on 16 October, Iraq will consider action only after its Council of Ministers has received and considered a resolution from the Jordanian cabinet requesting that Iraq station at least one infantry division and a light artillery brigade close to Jordan's border. These forces would enter Jordan only in case of aggression, as provided for by treaty. Iraq had declined, Nuri said, Jordan's request that Iraq and Britain base aircraft at Mafraq in north Jordan.

Nuri added that the problem of the command of forces must also be settled before his troops could move into Jordan, and indicated that Jordanian commitments to Syria providing for a "joint command" were an additional obstacle.

Comment

Despite his desire to extend Iraq's influence in Jordan while Egypt is preoccupied with Suez, Nuri remains reluctant to provoke an Israeli attack. He has apparently been deterred by strong pressure from Israel, Egypt, Syria, and France.

18 Oct 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

25X1A

Page 3

25X1A

2. IMMINENT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM HUNGARY REPORTED

25X1

Comment

The conclusion of the Austrian state treaty in May 1955 removed the legal basis for the retention of troops in Hungary and Rumania.

The removal of the approximately 27,000 Soviet troops now stationed in Hungary would support previous indications that the USSR is adopting a policy which would significantly reduce evidence of its control in at least some of the Satellites. Nationally oriented Hungarian Communist elements, who may now wield the dominant influence in the party, are undoubtedly pushing for the removal or reduction of Soviet forces.

25X1A

18 Oct 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 4

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002700610001-4

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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